



USDA
National Agricultural Statistics Service
Upper Midwest Region – Minnesota Field Office
Cooperating with the Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture
nassrfourm@nass.usda.gov
www.nass.usda.gov

Vol 15-22

Minnesota AgriView

December 10, 2015

FARM LABOR

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There were 73,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin) during the reference week of October 11-17, 2015. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$13.28 per hour, up \$1.04 from October 2014. The number of hours worked averaged 41.5 for hired workers during the reference week, up 3.0 hours from October 2014.

During the reference week of July 12-18, 2015, there were 80,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin). Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$12.56 per hour during the July 2015 reference week, up \$0.69 from July 2014. The number of hours worked averaged 38.3 for hired workers during the reference week, down slightly when compared to 38.4 hours in July 2014.

Hired Workers and Wage Rates – Lake Region¹ and United States: 2014-2015

	Lake Region			United States		
	October 2014	July 2015	October 2015	October 2014	July 2015	October 2015
Hired Workers on Farms..... 1,000 workers	63	80	73	782	872	841
Hours worked by Hired Workers hrs/wk	38.5	38.3	41.5	41.3	41.0	41.7
Wage Rate by Work Type ²						
Field \$/hr	12.09	11.76	12.53	11.52	11.73	12.11
Livestock \$/hr	11.35	11.61	12.20	11.29	11.80	12.02
Field & Livestock \$/hr	11.75	11.70	12.40	11.46	11.75	12.09
All Hired Workers \$/hr	12.24	12.56	13.28	12.12	12.47	12.82

1. Lake Region includes Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. 2. Benefits, such as housing and meals, are provided to some workers but the values are not included in the wage rates.

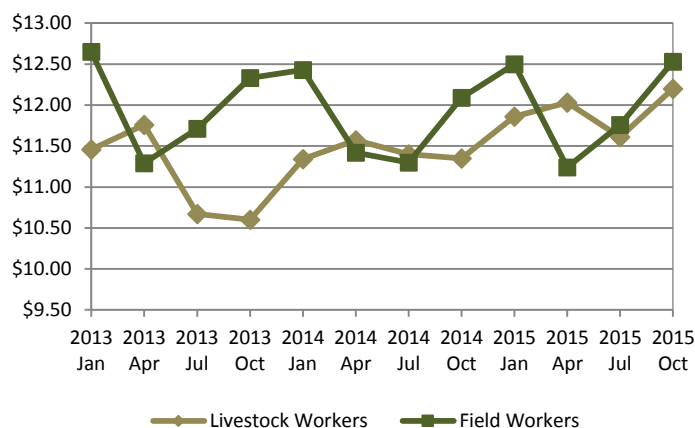
Nationally, workers hired directly by farm operators numbered 841,000 for the reference week of October 11-17, 2015, up 8 percent from the October 2014 reference week. There were 872,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 12-18, 2015, up 4 percent from the July 2014 reference week.

U.S. farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.82 per hour during the October 2015 reference week, up 6 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$12.11 per hour, up 5 percent from a year earlier. Livestock workers earned \$12.02, up 6 percent. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$12.09 per hour, was up 5 percent from October 2014. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.7 hours during the October 2015 reference week, compared with 41.3 hours a year earlier.

U.S. farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$12.47 per hour during the July 2015 reference week, up 4 percent from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$11.73 per hour, up 3 percent. Livestock workers earned \$11.80 per hour, up 5 percent. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$11.75 per hour, was up 4 percent from July 2014. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.0 hours during the July 2015 reference week, compared with 40.5 hours a year earlier.

The 2015 U.S. all hired worker annual average wage rate was \$12.54 per hour, up 4 percent from the 2014 annual average wage. The 2015 U.S. field worker annual average wage rate was \$11.72 per hour, up 4 percent from the 2014 annual average. The 2015 U.S. annual average combined wage for field and livestock workers was \$11.74, up 4 percent from the 2014 annual average of \$11.29 per hour.

Wage Rates by Type of Worker, Lake Region



CATTLE ON FEED

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in Minnesota for all feedlots with a capacity greater than 1,000 head totaled 138,000 head on October 1, 2015. This is down 1 percent from last month but up 22 percent from last year.

Placements during September totaled 17,000 head, down 5,000 head from last month and down 3,000 head from last year. **Marketings** for September were 18,000 head, up 4,000 head from last month, but equal to last year. **Other disappearance** totaled 1,000 head.

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.2 million head on October 1, 2015. The inventory was 2 percent above October 1, 2014. The inventory included 6.93 million steers and steer calves, up 7 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 68 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.29 million head, down 7 percent from 2014. October 1, 2015 heifers and heifer calves inventory is the lowest percent of total October inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during September totaled 1.93 million head, 4 percent below 2014. Net placements were 1.87 million head. During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 395,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 290,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 416,000 head, and 800 pounds and greater were 830,000 head. Placements are the lowest for September since the series began in 1996. **Marketings** of fed cattle during September totaled 1.64 million head, 2 percent below 2014. **Other disappearance** totaled 57,000 head during September, 12 percent below 2014.

Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance by Month, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – Selected States and United States: 2014-2015

State	Cattle on Feed ¹ October 1			Placements during September			Marketings during September			September Disappearance other than Slaughter ²		
	2014	2015	'15 as % of '14	2014	2015	'15 as % of '14	2014	2015	'15 as % of '14	2014	2015	'15 as % of '14
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Arizona	252	240	95	20	18	90	24	17	71	1	2	200
California	415	460	111	43	48	112	38	38	100	5	5	100
Colorado	820	830	101	200	210	105	155	155	100	5	5	100
Idaho	195	220	113	64	49	77	38	43	113	1	1	100
Iowa	560	600	107	99	85	86	114	101	89	5	4	80
Kansas	2,010	2,020	100	400	400	100	325	320	98	15	10	67
Minnesota.....	113	138	122	20	17	85	18	18	100	1	1	100
Nebraska	2,230	2,270	102	530	510	96	400	430	108	10	10	100
Oklahoma	245	255	104	55	52	95	54	46	85	1	1	100
South Dakota ..	180	205	114	50	43	86	42	42	100	3	1	33
Texas	2,470	2,490	101	445	420	94	410	365	89	15	15	100
Washington	190	195	103	43	36	84	32	35	109	1	1	100
Other States	305	295	97	45	43	96	33	32	97	2	1	50
United States ...	9,985	10,218	102	2,014	1,931	96	1,683	1,642	98	65	57	88

¹ Cattle on feed are steers and heifers being fed a ration of grain, silage, hay and/or protein supplement for slaughter market that are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. It excludes cattle being "backgrounded only" for later sale as feeders or later placement in another feedlot.

² Includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Cattle on Feed, Number on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Quarter – States and United States: 2014-2015

State	Steers & Steer Calves			Heifers & Heifer Calves		
	October 1, 2014	July 1, 2015	October 1, 2015	October 1, 2014	July 1, 2015	October 1, 2015
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Arizona	249	236	236	3	4	4
California	365	425	430	50	35	30
Colorado	520	560	570	300	270	260
Idaho	110	150	145	85	75	75
Iowa	430	490	450	130	150	150
Kansas	1,050	1,030	1,100	960	910	920
Minnesota.....	96	126	118	17	15	20
Nebraska	1,460	1,570	1,520	770	710	750
Oklahoma	165	190	180	80	70	75
South Dakota ..	102	142	118	78	88	87
Texas	1,590	1,650	1,740	880	830	750
Washington ...	110	135	120	80	80	75
Other States ..	200	205	200	105	90	95
United States ..	6,447	6,909	6,927	3,538	3,327	3,291

FARM INCOME & EXPENSES

Annual Farm Sector Income and Finance reports are published by the USDA's Economic Research Service. For more information, visit: www.ers.usda.gov/topics/farm-economy/farm-sector-income-finances.aspx

CASH RECIEPTS FROM FARM MARKETINGS: Minnesota, 2011-2014

Item	2011	2012	2013	2014
	Thousand dollars			
All commodities	17,849,804	21,048,534	21,662,626	18,827,590
Livestock and products	6,998,053	7,400,124	7,698,535	8,849,241
Meat animals	3,906,909	4,259,260	4,518,228	5,094,371
Cattle and calves	1,291,231	1,470,510	1,663,133	1,932,975
Hogs	2,615,678	2,788,750	2,855,095	3,161,396
Dairy products, Milk	1,800,925	1,757,728	1,842,732	2,237,456
Poultry and eggs	1,102,064	1,178,457	1,136,008	1,311,421
Broilers	110,757	135,700	172,631	178,870
Miscellaneous livestock	188,155	204,679	201,567	205,993
Crops	10,851,752	13,648,410	13,964,091	9,978,349
Food grains	659,456	532,289	509,773	422,991
Wheat	656,215	528,976	506,681	419,271
Feed crops	5,774,830	7,400,604	7,731,721	4,931,629
Corn	5,611,506	7,222,520	7,512,305	4,736,833
Oil crops	2,975,845	4,203,410	4,176,592	3,311,773
Vegetables and melons	359,128	463,279	398,047	441,957
Fruits and nuts	19,126	9,322	18,329	19,357
All other crops	1,063,367	1,039,506	1,129,628	850,642

Footnotes Data as of November 24, 2015. Values are rounded to the nearest thousand. Sub-categories may not sum to total because not all sub-categories are reported.

FARM SECTOR BALANCE SHEET: United States, 2011-2014

Nominal (Current Dollars)	2011	2012	2013	2014
	Thousand dollars			
Farm sector assets	2,310,640,037	2,637,871,531	2,777,810,413	2,944,330,128
Financial	107,310,180	138,635,115	86,080,028	110,915,886
Inventories	184,893,409	182,194,221	191,843,110	209,677,301
Crops	62,461,643	64,772,873	60,464,496	61,738,784
Livestock and poultry	101,446,630	95,743,147	110,800,752	127,837,231
Purchased inputs	20,985,137	21,678,200	20,577,861	20,101,286
Real estate	1,795,125,877	2,073,075,507	2,252,907,211	2,378,665,622
Value of machinery and motor vehicles	223,310,571	243,966,688	246,980,064	245,071,319
Farm sector debt	294,472,133	296,756,256	314,975,451	345,701,560
Real estate	167,190,768	173,291,004	184,820,203	196,289,292
Commercial banks	52,946,233	64,472,575	68,903,134	73,242,969
Farm Credit System	75,287,498	80,235,584	85,250,722	88,783,950
Farm Service Agency	3,334,494	3,738,199	3,717,074	4,325,028
Farmer Mac	3,770,165	3,806,406	4,141,302	4,461,787
Individuals and others	18,126,226	8,832,152	10,084,246	12,777,020
Storage facility loans	722,409	734,065	746,627	752,327
Life insurance companies	13,003,744	11,472,024	11,977,097	11,946,212
Nonreal estate	127,281,365	123,465,252	130,155,248	149,412,268
Commercial banks	59,189,718	60,014,708	63,718,151	70,972,979
Farm Credit System	41,085,284	42,795,007	44,011,090	48,147,965
Farm Service Agency	3,545,409	3,224,817	2,826,828	3,550,430
Individuals and others	23,460,955	17,430,721	19,599,180	26,740,893
Farm sector equity	2,016,167,904	2,341,115,274	2,462,834,962	2,598,628,567
Ratios	Percent			
Debt/asset ratio	12.74	11.25	11.34	11.74
Debt/equity ratio	14.61	12.68	12.79	13.30
Equity/asset ratio	87.26	88.75	88.66	88.26

Footnotes F = Forecast values. NA = Data are not available/applicable. Values are rounded to the nearest thousand.

FARM INCOME AND EXPENSES: Minnesota, 2011-2014

Item	2011	2012	2013	2014
<i>Thousand dollars</i>				
Value of crop production	9,948,783	13,548,317	12,764,118	9,150,958
Crop cash receipts	10,851,752	13,648,410	13,964,091	9,978,349
Feed crops	5,774,830	7,400,604	7,731,721	4,931,629
Food grains	659,456	532,289	509,773	422,991
Fruits and nuts	19,126	9,322	18,329	19,357
Oil crops	2,975,845	4,203,410	4,176,592	3,311,773
Vegetables and melons	359,128	463,279	398,047	441,957
All other crops	1,063,367	1,039,506	1,129,628	850,642
Home consumption	2,160	2,823	2,654	6,904
Inventory adjustment	-905,129	-102,917	-1,202,627	-834,295
Value of animals and products production	7,008,028	7,434,242	7,625,406	8,949,037
Animals and products cash receipts	6,998,053	7,400,124	7,698,535	8,849,241
Dairy products, Milk	1,800,925	1,757,728	1,842,732	2,237,456
Meat animals	3,906,909	4,259,260	4,518,228	5,094,371
Miscellaneous livestock	188,155	204,679	201,567	205,993
Poultry and eggs	1,102,064	1,178,457	1,136,008	1,311,421
Home consumption	14,002	13,702	12,806	12,539
Inventory adjustment	-4,026	20,416	-85,935	87,257
Farm-related income	1,801,016	1,950,208	2,876,913	3,338,361
Forest products sold	3,033	3,524	5,528	5,018
Gross imputed rental value of farm dwellings	686,912	667,530	712,787	688,042
Machine hire and customwork	129,807	137,163	153,416	263,250
Other farm income	981,265	1,141,991	2,005,182	2,382,051
Total commodity insurance indemnities	405,630	315,938	971,902	1,374,695
Net cash rent received by operator landlords 2/	182,572	196,624	233,874	216,864
Value of agricultural sector production	18,757,827	22,932,766	23,266,436	21,438,356
Intermediate product expenses 1/	10,103,036	11,361,874	12,170,425	12,150,791
Farm origin	4,343,614	4,686,910	5,372,303	5,455,154
Feed purchases	2,240,000	2,320,000	2,980,000	2,860,000
Livestock and poultry purchases	653,614	706,910	712,303	975,154
Seed purchases	1,450,000	1,660,000	1,680,000	1,620,000
Manufactured inputs	3,021,468	3,610,214	3,572,260	3,495,038
Electricity	148,958	188,691	203,968	218,966
Fertilizer, lime, and soil conditioners	1,510,000	1,920,000	1,820,000	1,620,000
Pesticides	560,000	670,000	670,000	680,000
Fuel and oils	802,509	831,523	878,292	976,072
Other intermediate expenses 1/	2,737,954	3,064,750	3,225,863	3,200,600
Machine hire and custom work	209,025	245,863	209,775	267,479
Marketing, storage, and transportation	324,887	269,428	310,231	385,036
Repair and maintenance 1/	836,263	943,116	956,991	901,795
Miscellaneous expenses 1/	1,367,778	1,606,342	1,748,867	1,646,289
Total insurance premiums 4/	543,481	620,387	641,818	604,944
Irrigation	1,041	514	889	2,021
Contract labor	158,958	43,659	21,054	21,219
Net government transactions	-21,638	-51,378	-138,887	-501,122
Direct government payments	487,877	534,668	527,038	261,397
Property taxes and fees 1/	509,514	586,046	665,926	762,519
Motor vehicle registration and licensing fees	29,514	36,046	35,926	42,519
Gross value added	8,474,196	11,475,855	10,936,069	8,765,224
Capital consumption 1/	920,589	1,875,242	2,043,070	2,660,455
Net value added	7,553,607	9,600,612	8,893,000	6,104,769
Factor payments to stakeholders 3/	2,725,892	3,283,258	3,265,269	3,173,005
Hired labor and non-cash employee compensation	471,042	766,341	598,946	588,781
Net rent paid to operator landlords	195,876	214,523	249,907	233,107
Net rent paid to nonoperator landlords	1,253,432	1,372,756	1,599,188	1,491,680
Total interest expenses 1/	805,542	929,638	817,228	859,437
Net farm income	4,827,715	6,317,355	5,627,730	2,931,765

Footnotes Data as of November 24, 2015. Values are rounded to the nearest thousand. 1/ Includes expenses associated with operator dwellings 2/ Share rent income is included in cash receipts 3/ Prior to 2008 estimates, factor payments to stakeholders only includes net rent paid to nonoperator landlords. 4/ Includes federal and private crop and livestock insurance premiums as well as casualty, hail, motor vehicle and all other insurance premiums